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L I F E

AND

PUBLIC SERVICES

OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR GEO. MURRAY.

REPRINTED FROM RYALL'S "LIVES OF EMINENT STATESMEN."

MANCHESTER:

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY LEICESTER & HEWITT, CHRONICLE
AND STANDARD OFFICE, 4, ST. ANN'S-STREET.

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OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

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RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF BOSTON

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LIFE & PUBLIC SERVICES

OF

SIR G. MURRAY.

The RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE MURRAY, G.C.B., is the second son of Sir William Murray, Bart., of Ochtertyre, in Perthshire, and of Lady Augusta Mackenzie, youngest daughter of George, third Earl of Cromartie.

The family of Murray of Ochtertyre, branched off from the house of Tallybardine (now Atholl), in the beginning of the fifteenth century, during the reign of James the First of Scotland, and allied itself again to that house by the marriage of Sir William Murray, third Baronet of Ochtertyre, with the grand-daughter of John Murray, Marquis of Atholl, and Lady Amelia Sophia Stanley, daughter of James, seventh Earl of Derby.

Sir George Murray, and his elder brother the late Sir Patrick Murray, Bart., received their education at the High School, and at the University of Edinburgh. The elder brother attached himself to the study of the law, and was called to the Scotch bar. He sat in Parliament for some time as representative for the city of Edinburgh, and afterwards accepted a seat on the bench in Scotland as a Baron of the Court of Exchequer. His assiduity and integrity as a Judge procured for him general esteem, and the zeal and ability with which he applied himself to country affairs, together with his liberality and disinterestedness in promoting undertakings of public utility, have endeared his name to all ranks in the country in which he resided.

Sir George Murray, the younger brother, made choice of the military profession, and was appointed in 1789 to an Ensigny in the 71st regiment of foot, from which he was removed to the 34th, and in June, 1790, to the 3rd Guards. On the breaking out of the war with France in 1793, he accompanied his regiment to Holland, and was

present at the affair of St. Amand, the battle of Famars the siege of Valenciennes, the attack at Lincelles, the investment of Dunkirk, and the attack at Lannoy. At the siege of Valenciennes, where the late Duke of York commanded, an incident occurred which served to show that he was not deficient either in personal courage, or in the feelings of humanity towards his comrades in arms. It had fallen to his lot to be on duty with a working party in the trenches on the night when the globes of compression were exploded, and the covert-way was stormed. In going round next morning to see what the result of those operations had been, he perceived that two wounded soldiers of the regiment had been left behind in the covert-way when the storming party had retreated. These men were sheltered by a traverse, but they could neither be approached for the purpose of assistance or removal, without exposure to the fire of musquetry from the ramparts still in the occupation of the enemy. Ensign Murray, however, resolved to go to the rescue of these men, and his example being followed by two private soldiers of the same regiment, he had the satisfaction to succeed in removing the wounded men from their distressing situation.

In January, 1794, he was promoted to a Lieutenancy with the rank of Captain, and in April returned to England. He rejoined the army in Flanders in the summer of the same year, and was in the retreat through Holland and Germany. In 1795, he was appointed Aid-de-Camp to Major-General Alexander Campbell, on the Staff of Lord Moira's army; in the summer he sailed on the expedition, which proved abortive, intended for Quiberon; and, in the autumn, on that for the West Indies, under Sir Ralph Abercrombie and Admiral Christian, but returned in February, 1796, on account of ill health. In 1797 and 1798, he served as Aid-de-Camp to Major-General Campbell, on the Staff in England and Ireland. On the 5th of August, 1799, he obtained a company in the 3rd Guards, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He was employed on the Staff in the Quarter-Master-General's department on the expedition to Holland, and was wounded in the action near the Helder.

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On returning from Holland he proceeded with his regiment to the south of Ireland, and joined the force assembled at Gibraltar in the autumn of 1800, under the orders of Sir Ralph Abercrombie. That General again appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Murray to the Quarter-Master-General's department, and dispatched him to Jaffa, to apprize the Grand Vizier of the approach of the British armament, and to concert measures with his Highness, for the co-operation of the allied forces in the intended expedition against the French in Egypt. He rejoined Sir Ralph Abercrombie in the Bay of Marmouche, and on the day of the disembarkation of the British army in the bay of Aboukir, he was attached by the Commander-in-Chief to Major-General Sir John Moore, who had charge of the right wing of the troops ordered to land first, and to whom it was allotted to dislodge the enemy from a high sand hill, which formed the principal feature in their position. He was present in the expedition against Rosetta; in the affair of Rhamaine; at the investment of Cairo, and of Alexandria; and, on the close of the campaign, his services were rewarded by the Captain Pacha, in the camp before Alexandria, with the decoration of the second class of the order of the Crescent.

During the peace which followed the successful expedition to Egypt, Lieutenant-Colonel Murray was appointed Adjutant-General to the forces in the West Indies, in which he remained only one year, in consequence of an arrangement then contemplated to reduce the Staff of the army, by employing deputies only at the head of the several military departments, every where but in England. Lieutenant-Colonel Murray being thus recalled, received an appointment at the Horse-Guards, in the Quarter-Master-General's department; which was, at that time, placed on a more extended footing than it had before been. In 1804, he was appointed Deputy-Quarter-Master-General in Ireland; and, in the following year, he served in the same branch of the Staff, with an allied army then forming in Hanover, but which was broken up in consequence of the defeat of the Austrians and Russians at Austerlitz. Having returned to Ireland in his former capacity, he was, in 1806, again placed at the head of the Quarter-

Master-General's department, in an expedition which proceeded in the first instance to Stralsund, to take part in a combined plan of operations on the Continent, which plan was frustrated by the successes of the French in Poland, and the consequent peace concluded between Napoleon and the Emperor of Russia on the river Niemen. The British force in the Baltic was, however, largely augmented from England, and directed against Copenhagen; Lieutenant-Colonel Murray still remaining at the head of the Quarter-Master-General's Staff of the expedition. Having returned to Ireland, he was again called upon, in the spring of 1808, to proceed on a mission to Sweden; and a body of troops being soon after sent to that country under Sir John Moore, Lieutenant-Colonel Murray was appointed Quarter-Master-General to it. On the return of the troops from Sweeden, Lieutenant-Colonel Murray accompanied them to Portugal, where they joined the army which had already begun to act in that country under the orders of Sir Auther Wellesley. He landed in Portugal with Sir Harry Burrard on the morning of the day on which the battle of Vimiero was fought, and became Quarter-Master-General to the British forces in the Peninsula. In that capacity he accompanied Sir John Moore into Spain; was present at the battle of Corunna, and from thence returned to England with the army. He soon after obtained the rank of Colonel; and in the month of April 1809, embarked at Portsmouth with Sir Arthur Wellesley, to resume the situation of Quarter-Master-General of the army in the Peninsula, which he continued to fill from that time until the end of the continental war in 1814, with the exception of the year 1812, during which he was at home, and held the appointment of Quarter-Master-General in Ireland. In 1811, Colonel Murray had been raised to the rank of Major-General, and the decoration of the second class of the order of the Tower and Sword had been bestowed upon him by the Prince Regent of Portugal.*

* The following letters will best show in what degree of estimation Major-General Murray's abilities and services were then held, as well by the distinguished general officer who commanded the British army in the Peninsula, as by the Commander-in-Chief at home.
Letter from Lord Wellington to Major-General Murray, dated May 28th, 1812, at Fuente Guinaldo, in Spain.

"My dear MURRAY,—I received this day your letter of the 2nd, and I cannot express to you how much concerned I am that you have relinquished your situation

Major-General Murray rejoined the army in the Peninsula, at Freneda, in Portugal, in the month of

with this army. I acknowledge that when I first heard of your intention to quit us, my sentiments were not confined to concern and regret; but it is impossible to expect that men will pass their lives in these countries who have other objects to look to; and I cannot be surprised that after such continued absence you should be desirous of spending some time at home.

In answer to your letter, I can only express a hope that you relinquish your situation with as much regret as I feel upon losing your assistance; and I assure you that I shall always be happy to receive it again, when you feel disposed to give it.

You will have appreciated the difficulty and importance of our late operations. The siege of Badajoz was a most serious undertaking; and the weather did not favour us. The troops were up to their middle in mud in the trenches; and in the midst of our difficulties the Guadiana swelled, and carried away our bridge; and rendered useless, for a time, our flying bridge. However, we never stopped; and a fair day or two set all to rights.

The assault was a terrible business, of which I foresaw the loss when I was ordering it; but we had brought matters to that state that we could do no more; and it was necessary to storm or raise the siege. I trust, however, that future armies will be equipped for sieges with the people necessary to carry them on as they ought to be; and that our engineers will learn how to put their batteries on the crest of the glacis, and to blow in the counter-scarp, instead of placing them wherever the wall can be seen, leaving the poor officers and troops to get into and cross the ditch as they can.

Hill's late operation is likewise very important; as, unless the enemy have another bridge, they can no longer pass the Tagus as an army, excepting at Toledo. As you have left us I will not tantalize you by entering on our plans for the remainder of the campaign. I think it will be ours at all events; and I hope it may be attended by permanent important consequences.

Believe me, my dear Murray,

Your's most sincerely,

WELLINGTON."

Major-General Murray's return to the situation of Quarter-Master-General of the army in the Peninsula was occasioned by a letter of which the following is an extract.

Extract from a letter addressed to Major-General Murray, Quarter-Master-General in Ireland, by Colonel Torrens, Military Secretary to H.R.H the Commander-in-Chief, dated, Horse Guards, 27th of December, 1812.

"I have had a letter from Lord Wellington by the last mail, transmitting a certificate of the bad state of Colonel Gordon's health, which renders his return to England indispensable, and his Lordship expresses an earnest wish, coupled with the regret he has never ceased to experience for the loss of your services, that you should return to your old situation upon the Peninsula; and as the Commander-in-Chief feels that the good of the public service is intimately connected with your decision, his Royal Highness cannot fail to indulge a hope that your own private convenience and inclinations may not be prejudiced by a compliance with Lord Wellington's wishes. I am not authorized nor do I mean to convey an idea, that his Royal Highness would attempt to force your inclinations, but your return to the army is of such importance, and the difficulty of filling the situation, in case you should decline, is of such magnitude, that his Royal Highness must look for your acquiescence with considerable interest and solicitude. I feel that I have no right to obtrude my advice upon you, but I cannot avoid remarking that you stand too high in the estimation of the military world to sanction your retirement from that active course of your profession, which will undoubtedly lead to any elevation as a soldier which your ambition might suggest to you."

The following is an extract from the reply to the above letter, dated, Dublin, 19th of January, 1813.

"On my arrival here I received the duplicate of your letter of the 27th of December, the original of which has not yet reached me. The letter which I wrote to you by anticipation before I set out from Scotland, will have enabled you, however, to make known to the Commander-in-Chief my perfect readiness to return to the Peninsula; so that little more may be requisite now, than merely to acknowledge your letter, and to express my thanks for the friendly terms in which it is written. If I were to add nothing more, however, I should deprive myself of the great satisfaction which it affords me to convey through you to the Commander-in-Chief my sense of the condescension and kindness with which his Royal Highness has permitted that his wishes should be conveyed to me on the present occasion. The only return which it is in my power to make for the indulgence which has been so often shown to me by his Royal Highness, is not to relax in my endeavours to discharge my duty to the public service at all times to the best of my ability, in whatever situation I may be placed."

March 1813 ; and his services in the field obtained for him the distinction which is now affixed to his name ; having been created a Knight of the Bath in the following autumn.

When the war ended on the continent of Europe, and the British army had returned home from France, Sir George Murray was appointed Adjutant-General in Ireland. A proposal being made to him, however, to serve in America, where hostilities still continued with the United States, he embarked for that country in the month of December 1814, and having landed at Halifax, proceeded over-land to Quebec ; but, on the day of his arrival, a courier from Washington brought intelligence of the conclusion of the war. It had been intimated by the Secretary of State to Sir George Murray, before he left England, that, in the event of the negotiations then going on at Ghent, terminating in peace with America, it was intended to appoint him to the Government of the Canadas ; and he had been directed therefore, in the event of peace being proclaimed, to proceed, in the first instance, to the Upper Province, and assume the government of it, which he accordingly did. But by the earliest despatches received from England, after the opening of the navigation of the river St. Laurence in the spring, he was informed of the escape of Buonaparte from the island of Elba, and of the probability of a renewal of war in Europe ; and the option was, at the same time, given to him by the Secretary of State, either to remain in Canada, with a view to the fulfilment of the arrangement which had been contemplated for him there, or to return to Europe with the prospect of military employment. Sir George Murray immediately made over the government of Upper Canada to the general officer next in rank to himself, and on the 4th of June, set out for the Lower Province. Owing, however, to the tardy embarkation of the troops at Quebec for Europe, and the delay attendant upon sailing with a considerable fleet of transports, he was not enabled to join the army in France till near the end of July, when it had reached Paris.

The cessation of hostilities in France, and the conclusion of a general peace in the autumn of 1815, led to an arrangement, by which a force of 150,000 men, under the denomination of the "Army of Occupation," was

to remain for five years in that country. That army was formed of contingents furnished by the several allied powers which had contributed to the overthrow of Napoleon; and the command of it was conferred upon the Duke of Wellington. Sir George Murray, who was Quarter-Master-General of the British contingent, was likewise appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Army of Occupation, and he was raised at the same time to the local rank of Lieutenant-General on the continent of Europe.

During the time Sir George Murray held the appointment of Chief of the General Staff of the allied army in France, several marks of distinction were conferred upon him by the Sovereigns whose troops were serving in that army.*

The allied powers having thought fit to shorten the period originally fixed for the continuance of the Army of Occupation, the British troops returned home, in 1818. In the course of the following year, Sir George Murray was appointed Governor of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst; which appointment he continued to hold till the year 1824, when he accepted that of Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance, under the Duke of Wellington, then Master-General. He was in 1825, appointed to the command of the forces in Ireland, but quitted that command in 1828, to fill the office of Secretary of State for the Colonial and War Department in the Duke of Wellington's administration, on the retirement of Mr. Huskisson.

By what has been stated, it will appear, that so long as the country continued to be involved in war, Sir George Murray was diverted from political pursuits by his professional occupations as a soldier; and his immediate connexion with politics can hardly be considered to have taken place till the year 1824, when he was elected to represent the county of Perth in Parliament. But his moderation as a politician may be inferred from the fact, that although party feeling had been very much excited

* The first class of the order of Leopold, by the Emperor of Austria; the first class of the order of St. Alexander Newsky, by the Emperor of Russia; the first class of the order of the Red Eagle, by the King of Prussia; the first class of the Guelphic order, by the King of Hanover; the second class of the order of St. Henry, by the King of Saxony; the second class of the order of Maximilian Joseph, by the King of Bavaria. The first class of the French order of Military Merit was also offered to Sir George Murray, by Louis XVIII., but the British Government did not sanction his acceptance of it.

in Perthshire for some time, and especially at the two elections which immediately preceded that at which Sir George Murray was chosen, he declined, alternately, the invitation given him by each of the contending parties to come forward as a *party* candidate, and he did not offer himself until he had fully ascertained that, by doing so, he should put a period to the differences which had existed in the country; and, also, that he should not interfere with the views of any individual who might have formed, or be considered by others entitled to form, prior pretensions to the representation of the county. His election took place, accordingly, with the entire concurrence of all parties, notwithstanding his having become in some degree a party man by his recent acceptance of the office of Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance.

Sir George Murray's appointment in 1825, to the military command in Ireland, precluded his taking any very active part in parliamentary affairs for some time; he was, however, again unanimously chosen representative for Perthshire, at the general election which took place in 1826.

In the course of the several ministerial changes of the year 1827, Sir George Murray's appointment to office at the head of one or other of the military departments was contemplated, but circumstances occurred which prevented any of the then proposed political arrangements in which he was included being carried into effect. We find, however, that in the year 1828, Sir George Murray was a warm supporter of the grant proposed to Mr. Canning's family. He argued that such a tribute was justly due to the memory of a public man, so pre-eminently distinguished by his genius, his eloquence, and his acquirements, independently even of every other consideration; and, that the omission of it would be a lasting reproach to the nation;—and that as for those who appeared to oppose the grant in the hope of obscuring the fame of Mr. Canning—their malignity would be defeated like that of Tiberius, in prohibiting the appearance of the busts of Brutus and Cassius at the funeral of Junia,—*Sed profulgebant Cæssius atque Brutus, eo ipso, quod effigies eorum non visebantur.*

When Mr. Huskisson's retirement from the administration took place, the seals of the Colonial Department

were given, as has been stated, to Sir George Murray, then absent on leave from his military command, and in attendance upon his duties in Parliament. Having thus vacated his seat in the House of Commons, by accepting office, he was again chosen for Perthshire, without opposition.

That Sir George Murray's views of Colonial policy, whilst he held the appointment of Secretary of State, were characterized by liberality of sentiment, was frequently admitted, even by his opponents in Parliament, and is further attested, both by his speeches and official dispatches, which have lately been the theme of praise during the discussions which have arisen in the House of Commons on the Canadian rebellion; when even the seditious and traitorous fomentors and abettors of the rebels were compelled to acknowledge, that if the advice of Sir George Murray had been followed, the rebellion would not have broken out.

The nature of his opinions on several important questions of home policy will appear by the statement we are about to make. In the session of 1829, he supported the bill for the relief of the Roman Catholics from civil disabilities, by a speech which drew forth a strong eulogium from a man well qualified, both by ability and by long experience, to pronounce an opinion on such matters. Sir Francis Burdett, on addressing the House of Commons a few nights afterwards upon the same subject, said, "It is impossible for me to take leave of this subject without adverting, with feelings of the highest gratification, to the able assistance the right honourable gentleman (Mr. Peel) received the other evening from the excellent speech of his right honourable and gallant colleague, the Secretary of the Colonies. I must say, that since I have sat in Parliament, I have never heard a more effective or powerful speech; or one more calculated to accomplish its purpose, than that of the right honourable and gallant gentleman; and it was to me a great gratification to hear it from the lips of a soldier, because I have always had a feeling of regard and attachment towards the body of gentlemen of that profession; than whom none, I believe, are more liberal or enlightened; nor of any class can it be said more fairly or truly, that they are men of the world, in the most correct sense of the words; and

that their experience makes them better acquainted with the affairs of mankind than other persons, and more calculated for what they are, perhaps, not always given credit for in this house—the administration of the affairs of nations. The right honourable and gallant gentleman read, from the ranks of the army, a lecture well worthy of the meditation of the Church. We must with reference to it, adopt the reverse of the old adage—*cedant arma togæ*, and say now—*armis cedat toga*. But the most eloquent and admirable part of his speech was one so honourable to his feelings and understanding,—it comprises so much argument in so small a compass,—and goes so directly from the heart of the speaker to the heart of the hearer, that I cannot praise it too highly. It is that in which, deprecating the civil dissensions that arise from the existing state of the law as to religious opinions, the right honourable and gallant gentleman said:—“There are no such regulations in the army; we have no religious distinctions:—Catholics and Protestants are on the same footing; they sleep in the same tent; they march in the same ranks; they mount the same breach; they are emulous only in deeds of glory;—and, when they fall, they are laid together in the same grave, and their hopes of a blessed hereafter rest upon the same Redeemer.” This eloquent passage from the lips of a military man, I will cite as an answer to the senseless cry “No Popery;” and when any sentiments are attributed to persons which they never uttered, for fraudulent and mischievous purposes, I would have that passage inscribed in letters of gold, and with it I would enrich the walls of every cottage in England, and every cabin in Ireland.”

Sir George Murray was re-elected for his native county at the general election which took place in the month of August 1830, and again in May 1831. On the occasion of this last election, he addressed the electors in the county Hall of Perth, in a speech of a truly independent character, exhibiting his views as a senator and statesman in a light that must have been highly appreciated by his constituents. He said, among many other things too good not to be remembered and admired, that “It would be well if the people would, at all times, bear in mind that crowds have their courtiers as well as monarchs.

Wherever there is power there will be flatterers ; and the people do not always sufficiently recollect that they are liable to be flattered and misled as well as princes ; and by flatterers not less mean, cringing, and servile, and above all, not less false, or less selfish, than the vile flatterer who ever frequented a palace, to serve his own private ends by betraying the interests of his master. There is no disease against which a free state ought guard with greater vigilance than against the extreme democracy. If this principle be indulged too far, it will carry a people beyond the region of true freedom, into the dominion of that 'Anarch Old,' described by one of our greatest poets, in whose territories, he says, there is perpetual strife and confusion ;—all the elements of nature are in contention against one another, and some lift up their heads, rising to the surface, vainly fancies that it is guiding the vortex by which it is itself whirled round, until it is suddenly submerged, and another rises in its place with the like vain expectations, to share as quickly a similar fate. The state of chaos in the material world, thus described by the powerful imagination of Milton, is like the condition of the moral world, in that state of anarchy which democracy is sure to produce when pushed to excess ; and then, the people, worn out by disappointment and the continual changes of the most capricious and oppressive tyranny, are driven at last to seek for refuge under the firm yoke of a single despot." Sir George Murray, also expressed his sincere and anxious wish
 "That the vessel of the state might long continue to pursue her hitherto prosperous voyage ; with monarchy at the helm, to guide her in her course ;—with aristocracy that is, the influence of property, as ballast to keep her steady in a troubled sea ;—and with the favouring breeze of the people, to fill her sails. If our vessel shall be guided in such a manner I shall have no fears ; but if we shall weaken too much the hand which holds the helm, or diminish the weight and influence of the ballast,—if the breath of the people, which has hitherto wafted her so steadily along, shall be raised to a storm in place of continuing to be the admiration and the envy of other states, we shall exhibit to future times (which may God avert!) a shipwreck the most disastrous, the most irretrievable, and the most

willed, of any which has ever occurred in the history of the world." Thanking his constituents, and the county at large, he concluded by saying, "I shall be at all times willing to adopt and support every safe and prudent measure of practical improvement in our political system; but I trust I shall never be led away by theory from those principles which I consider to be the true foundations of our national power and prosperity, or be deterred by clamour and violence from upholding to the utmost our tried and valuable institutions."

In the discussions which arose on the subject of parliamentary reform, the objections of Sir George Murray to the particular scheme of reform brought forward by Lord Grey's government were founded, chiefly, upon the apprehensions he entertained, that the extent of the alterations proposed, and the violence of the means employed to carry them through, would shake the foundations of the constitution; and deprive, ere long, even the Whig Ministers themselves, of all control over that spirit of innovation which they were so rashly stirring up, for the temporary gratification of their own party feelings, and in the vain expectation that it would be the means of establishing, permanently, their own political ascendancy. With respect to that part of the measure which related to Scotland, Sir George Murray strongly recommended that two representatives should be granted to each of the larger Scotch counties. He argued that the claims of these counties to such additional, representation were tenable on the several grounds of territorial extent, population, and wealth; that the principle on which an addition of eight members was to be made by the bill, in favour of the improved commercial and manufacturing interests of that part of the United Kingdom—an addition both just and necessary—was equally applicable in the case of its agricultural interests, which has made a corresponding advance since the representation of Scotland was adjusted at the time of the Union; and, finally, that the existing opportunity should not be allowed to pass by, without introducing into the larger Scotch counties at least, the acknowledged advantages attendant upon double representation.

On the dissolution of Parliament, which followed the passing of the Reform Bill, Sir George Murray was

opposed in Perthshire by the Earl of Ormelie, only son of the Marquis of Bredalbane, who had recently been advanced in the Peerage by Earl Grey. The greatfortune which that young nobleman was to inherit, together with the excitement in the minds of the people, resulting from the recent measure, obtained for him the representation of the county of Perth, at the election which took place in December, 1832. On Lord Ormelie succeeding to the peerage, however, in consequence of the death of his father, Sir George Murray again contested the county successfully, in April, 1834, against Mr. Graham, the ministerial candidate.

On the formation of Sir Robert Peel's administration in the beginning of the winter of 1834, Sir George Murray was appointed to the office of Master-General of the Ordnance, with a seat in the Cabinet: but, at the general election which took place soon afterwards, the Honourable Fox Maule, (now under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, and eldest son of Lord Panmure) was successful against him in Perthshire, by a small majority. Sir George retired from office along with Sir Robert Peel, in April, 1835.

In the month of August 1836, a requisition was addressed to Sir George Murray by a numerous body of the electors of Westminster, requesting him to become a candidate for the representation of that city on the next vacancy which might occur. But the first vacancy happened under peculiar and unforeseen circumstances, in consequence of the spirited conduct of Sir Francis Burdett in vacating his seat for the express purpose of putting to the test of an election,—whether it was a act, as had been tauntingly alleged by the Whigs and Radicals, that he had forfeited the confidence of the majority of the constituency of Westminster, by his avowed alienation from the O'Connell-ridden Ministry of Lord Melbourne. Sir George Murray did not, therefore, think the case was one in which it would be becoming in him to interfere by being also a candidate.

The next opening which took place was occasioned by the dissolution of parliament, consequent upon the demise of William the Fourth. Sir George Murray came forward then, however, under the double disadvantage of the absence of many of his friends unavoidably caused

by the general election, and the utmost exertions of the government and the court being also put forth in favour of his opponents. The cause of the constitution, therefore, sustained a defeat, and the partisans of innovation were chosen to represent the citizens of Westminster in the present parliament.

Comment upon the life of Sir George Murray is unnecessary. As a subaltern we have shown him to be gallant and humane; when he arrived at the rank of a General, we find the Conqueror of the Peninsula, and of Napoleon, expressing his deep regret that he should lose his valuable services; and, that those services were so valuable, that His Royal Highness the Duke of York, then Commander-in-Chief, in the language of courteous command, again demanded his presence with the army. We have also shown that he has been highly honoured by the crowned heads of Europe; that, as a senator, he has been eloquent; ---as a politician, clear-sighted and moderate. True it is, that the last event recorded by us in his political career is a defeat. It was, however, a defeat where corruption conquered honour; ---treasonable language, loyal conduct; ---and which placed in the House of Commons a gentleman whose seat ought to have been occupied by a statesman.

Sir George Murray married Louisa, third daughter of Henry, Earl of Uxbridge, by whom he has one daughter.